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respective contactors, each triplet of contactors being coupled to transducer means to effect or sense variations of gap areas.

6. A transducer as in claim 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 wherein the contactors are mounted to associated transducer means so as to mechanically amplify the effect of the lateral displacement of the contactor tips on the transducer means.

7. A transducer as in claim 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 wherein the gap, the gap distances, or the gap areas are occupied by flexible, resilient, elastic material.

8. A transducer as in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in combination with:

- a) a processor in communication with the transducer means for determining data indicative of a contact sensed by the transducer means through contactor tips; and,
- b) an output means attached to the processor for providing an output characterized by such contact.

9. A transducer as in claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in combination with:

- a source of data indicative of a tactile display to be presented by said transducer and processor means for delivering to the transducer means signals to effect relative displacement of said contactors whereby a tactile display is provided by said one or more transducers.

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10. A transducer as in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein said transducer effects lateral displacement of said contactors.

11. A transducer as in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 wherein said transducer senses lateral displacement of said contactors.

12. A method of creating a tactile display across a plurality of contactors, each contactor having a respective skin engaging contactor tip separated from adjacent contactor tips by lateral gaps that permit a human finger to contact and be engaged with at least adjacent tips simultaneously, said contactors being actuatable by actuation means, comprising operating the actuation means to cause the contactors to be laterally displaced in relation to one another, whereby, upon placing a sensate portion of skin against said contactor tips, tactile sensations are being caused by varying the gap distance or the gap distances, or the gap areas between the contactor tips.

13. A method as in claim 12 wherein the contactor tips are actuatable by shared actuation means.

14. A method as in claim 12 or 13 wherein said gaps are varied in size as a result of amplified transverse movements of the contactor tips in response to longitudinal movement of the actuation means.

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